

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 RSC-01 /016 W

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R 310843Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8782

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EMIN, IR, IN

SUBJECT: KUDREMUH IRON ORE PROJECT

REF: NEW DELHI A-390

1. ANDRESEN OF KAISER ENGINEERS CALLED AT EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 30 TO TALK ABOUT HIS NEW DELHI VISIT EARLIER IN MONTH AND DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN TEHRAN. ACCORDING TO ANDRESEN, KAISER IS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC OVER PROJECT AND IS READY TO SEND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO INDIA TO DISCUSS FURTHER DETAILS AS SOON AS TIME APPEARS OPPORTUNE.

2. ANDRESEN IS MORE CONCERNED OVER SELLING IRANIANS ON KAISER'S SUITABILITY FOR TAKING LEADING ROLE IN KUDREMUH DEVELOPMENT. HE POINTED OUT KAISER HAS HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN IRAN AND DOES NOT ENJOY GOOD REPUTATION HERE COMPANY HAS EARNED IN INDIA. HE IS CONCERNED THAT HE IS NOT SEEING ALL KEY FIGURES IN TEHRAN AND ASKED EMBOFF TO PASS ON REQUEST THAT SWEETWOOD INQUIRE OF N.P. GUPTA, PRESIDENT, DESEIN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, AND/OR CHEIF OF PLANNING VASUDEVA OF NATIONAL MINERLAS DEVELOPMENT CORP, TO SEE WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES CO. MANAGINF DIRECTOR DR. REZA AMIN TO INDIA ABOUT NOV. 10 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON KUDREMUH. AS FAR AS THIS EMBASSY KNOWS,

DR. AMIN WILL BE THE RANKING IRANIAN OFFICIALS BUT WE DID AGREE TO QUERY EMBASSY NEW DELHI ON THE MATTER.

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3. COMMENT: IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, DECISION ON KUDREMUH FOREIGN COLLABORATION WILL BE MADE IN NEW DELHI, NOT TEHRAN. IRANIANS CONTINUE TO SEEM HAPPY WITH ANY PROSPECTIVE FOREIGN COMPANY WHICH SHOWS ITS ABILITY TO DELIVER THE GOODS. OTHER SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT AMIN WILL BE ACCOMPAINED BY "FINANCIAL EXPERTS" PRESUMABLY FROM DIVISION OF FOREIGN LOANS AND CREDITS, MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE, TO WORK OUT FINANCIAL DETAILS. WOULD APPRECIATE SOMEONE MAKING INQUIRIES REQUESTED BY ANDRESEN JUST TO COVER ALL POSSIBILITIES. HE HAS ASKED FOR REPLY BY NOVEMBER 5.

HELMS

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